

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20) voted today to provide our troops in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan with the tools they need. The bill provides a total of \$96.7 billion for Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, which is \$11.8 billion above the President's request.

"The 2009 Supplemental Appropriations bill recognizes the sacrifices of our troops and their families, by continuing to invest in improving military healthcare and family services. Congress and President Obama have provided a plan to end combat operations in Iraq, refocusing the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. Today we honored the commitment and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform by providing them the necessary resources."

Included within the Supplemental is \$734 million to provide over 170,000 service members who have had their enlistments involuntarily extended since September 11, 2001 with \$500 per month for every month under stop-loss orders. Total Department of Defense funding is \$84.5 billion. Funding is also provided for assistance to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq, as requested by the President, plus additional funding for improved State Department operations in those countries. The Supplemental calls for a performance assessment of the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan to be submitted with the 2011 budget. The bill provides additional funding to address Middle East security—a total of \$665 million for the West Bank and Gaza, \$250 million to Jordan, \$360 million to Egypt, and \$555 million to Israel. The Supplemental also includes \$500 million for international food assistance, \$100 million for the Global Fund to fight AIDS and other diseases. Additionally, the bill includes \$71.3 million to address the shortfall in funding for farm loan programs, as 47 States have loan backlogs that today cannot be funded. Furthermore, the bill includes \$2 billion to improve efforts to address Flu pandemics.

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